

1. Start by discussing how each member feels about studying the book of Revelation. Why do you think some avoid it?
2. Go through the Genesis – Revelation Comparison Chart. How does seeing Genesis and Revelation as the bookends of the Bible help see the purpose for studying Revelation?
3. Read 1 John 2:28. How does the study of Revelation and the second coming encourage Godly living?
4. Read the Five Keys to Understanding Revelation. Which is most helpful to you?
5. Read Revelation 1:1-3. If this was written in the late first century, why does it say the events in Revelation will soon take place?
6. How do you think we are blessed by reading and applying the book of Revelation in our lives today?
7. How can we apply the “46 defense” when it comes to dealing with the scary parts of the book of Revelation? (See Philippians 4:6)
8. Bonus Question: Do you think we are living in the last days?

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WHY STUDY REVELATION?

1. Genesis and Revelation are the _____ of the Bible.

The Beginning: Genesis 1-3	The Ending: Revelation 20-22
<i>"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."</i> (1:1)	<i>"I saw a new heaven and a new earth."</i> (21:1)
<i>"The darkness He called night."</i> (1:5)	<i>"There shall be no night there."</i> (21:25)
<i>"God made the two great lights (the sun and the moon)."</i> (1:16)	<i>"The city has no need of the sun or of the moon."</i> (21:23)
<i>"In the day you eat thereof you shall surely die."</i> (2:17)	<i>"And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow."</i> (21:4)
Satan appears as the deceiver of mankind. (3:1)	Satan disappears into the lake of fire forever. (20:10)
Shown a garden, into which defilement entered. (3:6-7)	Shown a city, "There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles." (21:27)
The walk of God with man is interrupted. (3:8-10)	The walk of God with man is resumed. (21:3)
Initial victory of the serpent. (3:13)	Ultimate victory of the Lamb. (20:10; 22:3)
<i>"I will greatly multiply your pain."</i> (3:16)	<i>"Neither shall there be pain anymore."</i> (21:4)
<i>"Cursed is the ground for your sake."</i> (3:17)	<i>"There shall be no more curse."</i> (22:3)
Man's dominion is damaged in the fall of Adam. (3:17-19)	Man's dominion is restored, in the reign of Christ. (22:5)
First paradise was closed. (3:23)	New paradise is opened. (21:24-26)
Access to the Tree of Life is lost in Adam. (3:24)	Access to the Tree of Life is regained in Christ. (22:14)
They were driven from God's Presence. (3:24)	We "shall see His face." (21:3; 22:4)

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2. "REVELATION" is the same word for "APOCALYPSE" which means an _____.

3. The study of Revelation encourages _____!

1 John 2:28 (CSB)

28 So now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Answers to fill in the blanks:

WHY STUDY REVELATION? 1. BOOKENDS 2. UNVEILING 3. GODLY LIVING
FIVE KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING REVELATION 1. WANTS US 2. SECOND COMING 3. PAST,
PRESENT, FUTURE 4. REVIEW 5. SYMBOLS
SETTING THE STAGE 1. JESUS CHRIST 2. REVELATION 3. STUDY, APPLY
ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS? 1. FIRST 2. SPIRITUAL 3. 46 DEFENSE

FIVE KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING REVELATION

(based on the work of Mark Hitchcock)

1. God _____ to understand Revelation

God wants us to study and understand Revelation! God new that we would shy away from it, so He put a special blessing to encourage us to read it and apply it to our lives.

2. It's About the _____ of Christ

Revelation describes events that immediately precede and follow this climactic event. When we read it, if we keep this focus, it will help us put what we read in context.

3. _____, _____, _____

The book is divided into three sections, based on Revelation 1:19:

- 1. The things John had just seen (Chapter 1)
- 2. The things that are now happening (Chapter 2-3)
- 3. The things that will take place after these things (Chapter 4-22)

4. Revelation is _____

Revelation is understood much more with the help of the Old Testament. Revelation is not as much new as it is putting all the pieces together. Though it nowhere directly quotes the Old Testament, 278 of its 404 verses refer or allude to Old Testament prophetic truth, and it amplifies what was only initially suggested in the Old Testament.

5. Understanding the _____

Don't be afraid of Revelation. The symbols are often explained in other portions of Scripture. Many times the use of symbols is consistent throughout the Bible (Not always, though). Don't look for what isn't there. It is best to take it literally unless otherwise specified.

SETTING THE STAGE

Revelation 1:1-3 (CSB)

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near.

1. The author of the book of revelation is _____!

2. The next phase of God's plan for the earth will be the events of _____!

3. Blessing comes to those who _____ and _____ the book of Revelation.

ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

1 Peter 4:7 (CSB)

⁷ The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer.

1. The Scriptures indicate that the _____ coming of Jesus Christ inaugurated the "last days" for the church.

2. Many prepare physically for the end, but more important is the _____ preparation.

3. One such preparation is the _____.
Philippians 4:6 (CSB)

⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.